

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSF-01 ERDA-05 EPA-01 NSC-05

AID-05 AGR-05 DOTE-00 LAB-04 HEW-02 HUD-01 TRSE-00

COME-00 OPIC-03 FAA-00 EB-07 CU-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 181605Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 197

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USEGJC, TGEN

SUBJECT: JWGT RD MTG - OBSERVATIONS

REF: CAIRO 1749

1. SUMMARY - AS REPORTED REFTEL THE JWGT RD MTG. PROCEEDED ROUTINELY, SOME EGYPTIAN CONCERNS ABOUT THE FOCUS AND IMPACT OF ITS ACTIVITIES WERE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED. AN INCREASING INTEREST IN BETTER COORDINATION AND DIRECTION OF FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS IN EARLIER AND MORE VISIBLE RESULTS WAS NOTED. RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THESE AREAS RESTS PRIMARILY WITH GOE, HOWEVER US AGENCIES SHOULD GUIDE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECTS, INCLUDING SFCP, WITH THESE CONCERNS IN MIND. EMBASSY WILL BE SUGGESTING SFCP GUIDELINES SHORTLY.

2. DURING THE JWGT RD MEETING SEVERAL EGYPTIAN CONCERNS WERE VOICED INFORMALLY. THESE FOCUSED IN THREE AREAS:  
(A) THE NEED TO MORE CLOSELY LINK RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES WITH EGYPTIAN DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.

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(B) THE HOPE THAT RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY WILL LEAD TO

CLOSER COMMERCIAL LINKS.

(C) THE DESIRABILITY, IF NOT NEED, TO PRODUCE SOMETHING  
VISIBLE TO OR WITH IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC.

THESE POINTS WERE MADE SPECIFICALLY IN PRIVATE AND, LESS  
DIRECTLY, IN HIS OPENING REMARKS TO THE MEETING BY DR. AHMED  
EFFAT, COORDINATOR OF US ASSISTANCE. DR. HASSAN ISMAIL, THE  
EGYPTIAN CO-CHAIRMAN, ALSO NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF EXCELLENT  
WORKSHOPS, SYMPOSIA AND CONSULTANTS' REPORTS, HAD BEEN  
ACCOMPLISHED, BUT MORE TRANSLATION OF THESE INTO PROJECTS WAS  
NEEDED IN SEVERAL AREAS.

3. THE DESIRE TO LINK RESEARCH MORE CLOSELY WITH DEVELOPMENT  
NEEDS IS A RECURRENT THEME REPORTED ON PREVIOUSLY. ONE  
PROBLEM IS DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AS DEFINED BY WHOM. EACH  
MINISTRY IS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPMENT IN SOME WAY AND TENDS TO  
DEFINE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN ITS OWN CONTEXT. SOME JWGTDR  
EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY WATER PROBLEMS, DO RELATE SPECIFICALLY, TO  
BROADER DEVELOPMENTAL SECTORS. OTHERS CAN BE RELATED IN SOME  
ELEMENTS. THE JWGTDR DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA TO ASSIST IN  
PRIORITY EVALUATIONS COULD ALSO BE HELPFUL. WE SUGGESTED TO  
DR. ISMAIL PRIVATELY THAT THE WILLINGNESS OF THE GOE TO PUT ITS  
OWN RESOURCES INTO A COOPERATIVE PROJECT WAS ONE INDICATION OF  
ITS REAL PRIORITY.

4. THE RELATION BETWEEN RESEARCH AND COMMERCIAL LINKAGES  
WAS LESS CLEARLY STATED: IT APPARENTLY RELATED TO THE DESIRABILITY  
OF RESEARCH OPENING UP THE WAY FOR INDUSTRY AND LATER INVESTMENT.  
HERE, THE JWGTDR WILL IDENTIFY WHEREVER POSSIBLE WHAT SECTORS  
E.G. INDUSTRY, UNIVERSITIES, GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO BE INVOLVED  
IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PRIORITY AREA. WE ALSO SAID THAT US  
INDUSTRY SHOULD HAVE, AT LEAST, THE FIRST OPTION ON ANY SUCH  
IDENTIFICATIONS AND NOTED THAT, IN ONE JWGTDR ACTIVITY WHICH HAD  
LED TO A COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY, PRELIMINARY TENDERS OR  
INVITATIONS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE EGYPTIAN SIDE TO  
EUROPEAN FIRMS.

5. ON PUBLIC IMPACT, S AND T DOES RECEIVE REASONABLY GOOD  
PRESS COVERAGE HERE AND IT WOULD HELP THE JWGTDR (AT LEAST  
THE EGYPTIAN SIDE) IF IT WERE CONNECTED TO OR RESPONSIBLE FOR  
A WELL-PUBLICIZED ACTIVITY. IN THIS REGARD, THE WELL-  
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PUBLICIZED AND SUCCESSFUL REMOTE SENSING PROJECT, WAS SOME-  
WHAT CO-OPTED INTO JWGTDR PROCEEDINGS.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE ARE WILLING TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO  
ASSIST THE EGYPTIANS IN COORDINATION AND PRIORITY DEFINITION,  
THE RESPONSIBILITY IS PRIMARILY THEIRS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE  
WILL HAVE TO BE SENSITIVE TO EGYPTIAN CONCERNS AND, WHERE  
NECESSARY, RATIONALIZE OUR OWN PRACTICES. IN A RELATED AREA

WE WILL SHORTLY BE SUBMITTING SUGGESTED GUIDELINES ON DEVELOPING SFCP PROJECTS. THE VISIBILITY OF PROJECTS IN TERMS OF IMPACT AND PUBLICITY RESTS INITIALLY WITH THE EGYPTIAN AND US PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND WE SHOULD OURSELVES BE ALERT TO POSSIBILITIES. ON DEVELOPMENT LINKAGES, THE PROBLEM IS COMPOUNDED BY THE LACK OF STAFF SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO DR. ISMAIL OR DR. EFFAT, PARTICULARLY IN FOLLOW-ON COORDINATION. DR. ISMAIL, WHO IS NOW ESSENTIALLY A PRIVATE PERSON, OPERATES AS AN INDIVIDUAL TO FOCUS AND RATIONALIZE EGYPTIAN INPUTS. HE HAS NO AUTHORITY WITH THE EGYPTIAN LINE AGENCIES, BUT DEPENDS ON HIS PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS. THERE ARE ADVANTAGES TO HAVING A NEUTRAL CO-CHAIRMAN, BUT THESE TEND TO BE BALANCED BY LACK OF STAFF SUPPORT. ALONG, THESE LINES, DR. ADEL SABET, UNDER SECRETARY, MIN OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH RECENTLY SAID THAT DR. ISMAIL SHOULD HAVE THE SUPPORT OF STAFF, PERHAPS IN THE ACADEMY, OR THE CHAIRMANSHIP SHOULD RESIDE IN A MINISTRY. LINKING RESEARCH TO COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IS A PARTICULAR INTEREST OF DR. EFFAT. HE MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE NEWLY FORMED JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL TO EXPLOIT COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS AREA, BUT DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE EXPLICIT IDEAS. EFFAT ALSO, HAS LITTLE IN THE WAY OF LINE AUTHORITY.

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